THE JERSEY COW.

Some Interesting Facts About the Island of Jersey and its Herds.

ADDRESS BY HON. S. B. ALEXANDER AT THE CATAWBA COUNTY FAIR.

In times of peace agriculture flourishes. Singular as it may appear, agriculture has advanced only as the art of war has advanced. The improved implements of agriculture have kept pace with the improved implements of war. For ages succeeding the dawn of history—when wealth and power resided within walled cities, the sword, spear, sling, bow and arrow and battering ram were co-temporary with the sickle and other primitive and rude implements of agriculture. The grain was threshed either by tramping it with oxen or horses or with the flail. The history of this era is the history of war—the life, liberty and property of the agriculturist was so insecure that it is no wonder to us that no progress was made. After the invention of gunpowder, the smooth bore cannon and musket changed the art of war, walled cities disappeared and fortifications upon the frontier gave the agriculturist the same protection as the most favored cities. The sickle was supplanted by the cradle and many new and improved implements were introduced. The last thirty years has witnessed the greatest revolution in the destructive engines of war and it has witnessed the greatest revolution in the implements of agriculture. The mower, reaper, harvester, separator, sulky plow, smoothing and disk harrows are co-temporaries of the rifled cannon, breach loaders, Gatling gun, needle gun and torpedos. Is the dream of Bulwer coming true—will man discover the mighty power that is so destructive of life—that war will cease forever? If so, agriculture and the mechanic arts will attain that degree of perfection that will cause those who may live in the near future to look upon us as we look upon those people who lived when the dawn of history began.

The division of labor is one of the greatest blessings to man. The "jack of all trades" has been supplanted by the "specialist." Agriculture is now divided into numerous divisions and sub-divisions, among them none rank higher than the breeding of cattle. The breeding of cattle may be classed in three sub-divisions: Beef, milk and butter. The young cattle breeder of to day must determine which of the sub-divisions is best suited to his surroundings. If beef is his aim, he should select the grand Shorthorns, whose early maturity and exceeding heavy weight of valuable flesh in their hind quarters are not equaled by any other breed. If milk should be his aim he should select the Holsteins. They have proven by their enormous flow of milk (in one or two instances reaching to eleven and one-half to twelve gallons per day) that the expectation of the originators of this variety has been surpassed. If butter should be his aim, the beautiful Jersey is without a rival. The origin of this breed of cattle is not known or at least is so obscure that those best informed do not agree. Some think they came from Normandy or Britany a thousand years ago, others think they are descendants of cattle brought to the Island by the Gauls or Romans. I am indebted for the following description of the Island of Jersey and its climate to an address of Col. George E. Warring, Jr., a prominent cattle breeder of Rhode Island, who has frequently visited the Island and imported from it some of the finest specimens to be found in America:

"The group known under the general name of the Channel Islands lies in the English channel, north of Britany and opposite the west coast of Normandy, from which they are but little removed. They originally formed a part of the duchy of Normandy, and were a part of the possessions of William the Conqueror when he became King of England. When Normandy was restored to France, these remained English possessions. The largest and southernmost Island is Jersey, which is forty miles north of the coast of Britany and sixteen miles west of the coast of Normandy. The strong tides by which it is washed are greatly tempered by the influence of the Gulf Stream, which modifies its climate to a remarkable degree. Its length from east to west is eleven miles, and its breadth from north to south about seven and a half miles. Its entire area is about 62 square miles, or 39,680 acres. Its highest elevation above mean tide is about 300 feet. The entire north coast is a high, rocky bluff, much indented with bays, and with no considerable streams flowing in that direction. The west coast is of a similar character, and scarcely lower. The southwestern coast is also mainly high bluff-land, this continuing along a portion of the southern shore, which extends further into the sea than the shore to the east of it. The length of this south bluff is three or four miles, the remainder of the southern shore and a large part of the eastern lie but little above the level of the sea. From the north and the west the land descends gradually, being divided by frequent valleys, with rills and brooks, quite to the southern coast, so that the general exposure is a little east of south, and well sheltered by high bluffs on the north-west and southwest coasts from violent winds, aiding materially in the modification of its climate. * * * It is divided into twelve parishes, each under its own local government, the whole being ruled by a legislature which, for local government, is comparatively independent of the British Parliament. Of course, in so small a country there must be considerable uniformity of habits, customs and language throughout all its parts; and the local differences which exist, although they affect even the languages of the people, need hardly be considered in this description * * * After the great fertility of the soil the agricultural prosperity of Jersey is most indebted to its remarkable climate. This is due to the circumstances above hinted at, but it is difficult to understand how these should have so great an influence. Softer skies and milder winters it would be hard to find. Variations of temperature are gradual and slight. It is never cold in winter and rarely hot in summer. The vegetation growing in open air in ornamental grounds is the best index to this mildness. For example: The fuschia grows to a great size, even running along the eaves of low two story cottages, and is perfectly hardy. This and sometimes camellia japonica is used as a hedge plant. The semi-tropical ferns which are entirely unknown in Virginia, grow here with great luxuriance. The yucca, the agave, the oleander, the azalea flourish in the open air. The orange and the lemon ripen without protection. The camellia japonica blooms throughout the winter. The grass is green and nutritious all the winter and the laurustinus blooms in December. The luxuriant vegetation of the Norfolk Islands grows vigorously, and it would hardly be too much to say that the native trees and shrubs of our extreme Southern States are quite unharmed by the winters of Jersey. While however, all these plants are successfully grown without other protection than shelter from high winds, the absence of intense summer heat is favorable to the vegetation of the North and the pine and the oak grow as well as under their native skies."

The Island of Jersey is smaller than many of our townships. It has a population of 57,000 inhabitants, of which over 30,000 reside in the city St. Helier. About 25,000 acres is used in farming. There are not more than six farms over fifty acres, the average being from fifteen to twenty acres. Many farms do not exceed two or three acres, yet all keep cattle, swine and poultry. Thorough tillage and high manuring have made these farms very productive—very few have pasturage sufficient for their cattle to roam over. They are tethered on plots of grass and being constantly so near their owners, they have become very gentle—a quality that has added much to their reputation. How long the Jerseys have been a distinct breed of cattle is not known. More than a hundred years ago they were recognized as a distinct breed and were highly prized for the yield and quality of their butter. In 1789 the Legislature of Jersey passed rigorous laws prohibiting the importation of any foreign cattle. Since then other rigorous laws have been passed prohibiting the importation of live cattle even for beef. It is fair to presume that all the cattle of the Island have been bred without the intermixture of foreign blood for at least one hundred years. The method of feeding and treatment of Jersey cattle is said to be the same now as it was many years ago. Mr. Le Cornu thus describes it:

"In order to derive the greatest possible advantage form his cows, the Jersey farmer endeavors to arrange for them to calve during the first three months of the year, that is when vegetation speedily advances. In the winter the cattle are always housed at night. When they come in (about four o'clock in the afternoon,) they are milked, after which each receives about three-fourths of a bushel of roots and a little hay; they are then left until eight o'clock when a bundle of straw is given to each one. The following morning they are attended to at six o'clock, or even before that hour. Having been milked, they again receive the same allowance of roots and hay as before mentioned, and at nine o'clock are turned out, if the weather is good, in some sheltered field or orchard. Then the stables are cleaned out and the bedding renewed, if required. * * * * " It is the custom in all the Channel Islands to tether cattle. The tethers are made of small chains: a spike about one foot long is attached at one end and driven into the ground, the other end is tied to the cows halter, the latter being made fast at the base of her horns. The length of these tethers is altogether about four yards. During the day cattle are frequently moved, generally every three hours and sometimes oftener; drink is given to them in the morning on leaving the stable, and at noon; if it be summer time they receive it also in the evening. About the month of May they are allowed to remain out at night, and continue so until the end of October, when the system of housing above described recommences. During the summer cows are frequently milked three times a day, and when the weather becomes very warm they are brought into the stables for a few hours, else they would be tormented by flies. * * * A good cow on the average gives fourteen quarts of milk per day, or eight or nine pounds of butter in one week."

The question of color has given rise to much contention. "Solid color and black points" was at one time requisite to obtain a high price. This fancy originated not on the Island of Jersey, but in England and was introduced into this country by those who are ever ready to "ape royalty." It no longer governs the market. Butter, the true test, is now the standard. The offspring of Gilderoy, Tormentor, Jersey Belle of Seluate, Niobe and other parti-colored Jerseys rank as high as the very best of the "solid colors." A yellow skin has always been looked upon with favor by all lovers of Jersey cattle. It is not a "positive indication of butter." Many cows whose skins were "yellow as gold" have proven inferior to others who could not claim that distinction. The question of size is very important but there is no positive knowledge to guide us concerning it. Upon the Island of Jersey the cattle are of medium size, and as a general rule those of medium size have given the greatest satisfaction. The English and Americans gauge their idea of cattle by the Short-horn. Ever looking for something "big," they are striving to add size to the Jerseys. How well they will succeed time alone will tell. The beefy form must be avoided—the peculiar office of the Jersey cow is not to lay up fat in the carcass, but to change its food into butter. The Arabian horses, generally from twelve to thirteen hands high and rarely exceeding fourteen hands, are the progenitors of the English and American race horses. By selection and the science of feeding we have race horses sixteen to seventeen hands high, which can distance the best Arabian horses in a race from one to four miles. Size and speed have been gained, but at a sacrifice of that stamina that enables the little Arabian horse to carry his rider across a desert ninety miles wide one day and return the next. By selection and the science of feeding the Jersey cow may rival the Short-horn in size and may give a "seven days test" that may exceed the dream of the modern enthusiast, but there is danger of sacrificing the quality of "living to an old age a persistent milker from calf to calf," which adds so much to her usefulness.

In 1850 Messrs. Motley, Tamtor, Norton and Buck imported quite a number of Jersey cattle. These may be considered the foundation of the stock in America. Since then numerous importations have been made, but I doubt if two-thirds of them were equal to those of 1850. The American Jersey Cattle Club believing that many inferior animals were being imported, has placed the entry fees on imported cattle so high as to prove a barrier to this evil. Coming from an Island with almost a perfect climate, the Jersey cattle have proved their adaptability to all sections of our country. They do equally as well in Southern Canada as on the borders of the Gulf of Mexico. Our state situated between these extremes should produce them as fine as any in their native Island. There are less than 43,000 registered Jersey cattle in Canada and the United States. Many counties in Illinois and other States contain a greater number of cattle and when we consider that there are over 35,000,000 of cattle in the United States we can well see that it will be some time yet before the Jersey will become common in all sections of our country. The small number for sale has caused them to sell for high prices and high prices have caused many inferior animals to be used for breeding purposes. Unless great care be taken in selecting animals of not only family merit but of *individual* merit, there is great danger of degeneration. While it is true that "like produces like or the likeness of some ancestor," bad qualities are more prepotent than good

The test of the Jersey cow is weight of butter. Formerly these tests were made on ordinary feed or on grass alone. Among the most celebrated cows that made from fourteen to twenty-five pounds each in seven days were Alphea, Eurotas, Ionan, and Niobe. Now the science of feeding is quite a factor under the forcing process, Princess 2d made 46 pounds 12½ ounces, Oxford Kate 39 pounds, 12 ounces and Mary Ann of St. Lambert 36 pounds 12½ ounces in seven days. They might be called machines for converting farm products into butter, and when we shall have a sufficient number of these butter machines in the valleys of the Yadkin and Catawba we will see our agriculture revolutionized. The dairy farmer with the comforts of life around him, with time to read, to visit and money to lend will take the place of the cotton and tobacco farmer, who works from January to January realizing but a scant subsistence and unable to give his children such an education as will fit them for the vicissitudes of life.

Piedmont Carolina must soon become a dairy district; the fertility of its soil cannot be maintained without it. The degeneration of the soil means the degeneration of the people. Live stock in all countries is the source from which the fertility of the soil has been maintained. Pasturage and the manure of live stock no longer enter into the economy of the farm. Our lands cultivated in hoed crops that keep them bare year after year are becoming exhausted of humus and already many of our farmers believe their lands cannot do without commercial fertilizer, just as the drunkard believes that he cannot do without whiskey. More than $45,000,000 has been paid by the farmers of North Carolina since the war for commercial fertilizers. This accursed "ignis fatuus" with only cotton or tobacco emblazoned upon it has caused such a reduction of live stock, grain and grass that beef, bacon, butter, corn, flour, oats and hay from other States is no rarity in any of our markets. Speed the day when the cattle-barn will supplant the cotton gin, when our fields shall be covered with grass and ornamented with flocks and herds. Grass, stock and education go hand in hand. The wealthiest, best educated and most prosperous agriculturists of all countries are to be found in the dairy districts.

"View them near,
At home where all their power is placed
And there their hospital fires burn clear,
And there the lowest farm house-hearth
is graced
With manly hearts and piety sincere;
Faithful in love, in honor stern and chaste,
In friendship warm and true, in danger
brave,
Beloved in life and sainted in the
grave."

INSECT REMEDIES.—Dried fruit may be kept entirely free from worms by mixing a few ounces of bark of sassafras root to the bushel of fruit. Weevils can be kept out of grain the same way.

SOME ADVANTAGES OF SHEEP RAISING.

Prof. Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural College, estimates the demand of sheep for food to exceed, for each 1,000 pounds of live weight, that of cattle by 25 to 35 per cent. But let it be remembered that the sheep not only produces mutton, but a fleece of wool at the same time, while the steer converts its food into meat only. In another way the sheep is more economical than the steer. It feeds largely on what is rejected by the steer, and would otherwise go to waste. Randall tells us that in trials as to the relative shrinkage from cooking between mutton and beef, the result was in favor of the mutton. Prof. Sanborn makes other comparisons, thus: "Given 100 pounds each of live steer and sheep at four cents a pound, live weight, if we subtract eight pounds of wool at 20 cents a pound from cost of the sheep, the dressed carcass of the steer at 60 per cent. shrinkage, will cost 6.66 per pound; the dressed carcass of the sheep will cost 4.61 cents a pound; or the former costs 42 per cent. more than the latter." It would seem, from all the evidence, that there can be no doubt of the greater economy in growing mutton than in growing beef.—*National Live Stock Journal, Chicago.*

CLOVER.

The experience of the farmers of Catawba is establishing the value of the clover crop and its adaptation to the soil and climate of this section. Volumes have been written on the clover plant and its great value to the farmer. It seems to combine many remarkable advantages. On a stock farm it is indispensable as a cheap food for raising young animals or fattening old ones. As a fertilizer it is very valuable and comes nigher than any other plant to solving the problem which gives pause to modern chemistry—the problem how to extract from the atmosphere the invaluable nitrogen which lies around us in an ocean of boundless profusion, and which yet refuses to respond to any invitation, from any chemical substance to combine with it for the use of plants. Clover assimilates nitrogen from the air and fixes it in its own substance, so that it can be added to the soil by the mere mechanical process of ploughing under the plant. As nitrogen is the expensive fertilizer, being the most difficult to obtain, it is evident upon mere theory that clover is of a great value as a fertilizer, and the facts more than sustain the theory.

Heretofore it has been the custom of the farmers of this section to send North for their seed or buy it from dealers supplied from the Northern States. This is now all about to be changed. The Messrs. Sigmon, of this county, have a clover huller which is in operation, and the Messrs. Suttlemyre have also a huller attachment to their thresher, which they are successfully operating. The seed from an average acre of clover at present prices is worth as much as the wheat from an average acre of that crop, with this immense advantage in favor of the clover, that the first and valuable cutting of clover is saved for feeding the stock of the farm, and the seed allowed to mature on the second crop, which possesses little value as a feed on account of its salivating properties.

With these facts in view it is pretty certain that the clover crop is bound to receive attention from the farmers of the Piedmont country. They cannot afford to neglect a crop which will fertilize the soil, feed and fatten live stock and put money directly and indirectly in the farmer's purse.—*Hickory Press.*

FOUNDER IN COWS.

Cows are as liable to founder as horses, or, at least they show the characteristic lameness of this disease after over-feeding on almost anything. We have seen it where apples, potatoes, or green corn were the articles with which the stomach was overloaded. Any such ration fed to excess will stop at once the flow of milk in the best cow, and it will take several days of careful management to restore it. If she dungs freely, keep her in a dry place, especially at night, and give light, nutritious but easily digestible food. A cow suffering from indigestion is very liable to take cold if exposed to storms and chilly weather at night.